



Board Of County Commissioners

One Voice

District One Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 1

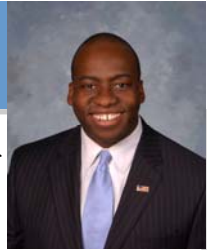
February, 2008

Happy Black History Month!

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." George Santayana wrote those words in 1905, less than a decade after the Supreme Court backed the concept of "separate but equal" in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The United States, and we as Americans, have come a long way in the last century. Minorities have made incredible strides and continue to "fight the good fight" more than a hundred years later. In this edition of *One Voice*, I am pleased to celebrate those strides by sharing with you some interesting Black History facts that helped lead our nation to the Civil Rights movement.

In April of 1910, the National Urban League was formed, and eight years later, Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. 1922-1929 is known as the Harlem Renaissance, marking an epoch in black literature and art. In 1936, Jesse Owens made history by winning four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin. In 1942, the famed Tuskegee Airmen were initiated—an all African-American Army fighter squadron. Five years later, Jackie Robinson became the first black to play major league baseball in modern history.

Negro History Week, which coincides with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, has been in existence since Dr. Carter G. Woodson announced its institution in 1926. In 1976, the observance was expanded to "National Afro-American History Month," in honor of the nation's bicentennial. Beginning in 1975, U.S. Presidents have paid tribute and urged all Americans to celebrate Afro-American History Month. While we all stand together as proud and thankful Americans, February is a good time, filled with rich history, to celebrate and remember the contributions and events that helped to make our nation stronger.



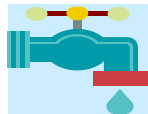
Spotlight on: FAU/SLC School Board Lab School

Next year, St. Lucie County parents and students will have a brand new option when it comes to education. In partnership with the St. Lucie County School Board, Florida Atlantic University is opening our area's first Charter Lab School in Tradition in southwestern Port St. Lucie. The exciting new facility will prepare students for the future by using the latest in innovative research and teaching methods. Students will also have the unique opportunity to participate in research projects which explore new ways of learning.

The FAU/SLC School Board Lab School is a public K-8 facility open to all students in St. Lucie County. **Interested families must apply, and students will be picked at random by lottery.** Those chosen will begin classes in the brand new facility in August 2008 (see picture below.) **The school is free for students and transportation will be provided.** To find out more about the school, you can contact **Carlos Gonzalez** at (772) 873-3350 or cgonza49@fau.edu today!



Construction is well under way on the new FAU/SLC School Board Lab School in Tradition. Classes are scheduled to begin in the multi-million dollar state-of-the-art facility in August 2008.



Water Once a Week

If you're going to water your lawn, South Florida Water Management District is asking that you only do it once a week. It is part of a groundbreaking water shortage order passed by the SFWMD's governing board in December. The order was enacted on January 15.

Here are the guidelines you should follow:

***ODD** street addresses may irrigate **Mondays** 4:00-8:00a.m. or 4:00-8:00p.m.

***EVEN** street addresses may irrigate **Thursdays** 4:00-8:00a.m. or 4:00-8:00p.m.

No restrictions apply to any other water uses—so you can wash your car or boat and pressure clean without a problem. For more information, call the Water Conservation Hotline at 1-800-662-8876 or visit www.sfwmd.gov.



Celebrating Black History

February is Black History Month, and there are plenty of opportunities for you to get out and celebrate.

On Saturday, **February 9** at 2:00p.m., author Phyllis Baker will be presenting a book talk and signing at the Ft. Pierce Library. On Saturday, **February 23**, Zora Fest 2008 will be presenting "Hattitude" at the Koblebard Student Union at IRCC. The event will take place from 2:00-6:00p.m. and participants are encouraged wear their most extravagant hat to celebrate Ms. Hurston's love of hats. On Sunday, **February 27** at 6:00p.m. at the Ft. Pierce Library, Road Scholar with the Florida Humanities Council Carolyn Williams will present a talk on "The Civil Rights Movement in Florida: Origins and Legacy". And every Monday in February, the Ft. Pierce library will be hosting "Monday at the Movies". Each week, a different film honoring black history will be featured—the selections include "Halleujah", "Boarding House Rules", "Native Sons" and "Anna Lucasta".

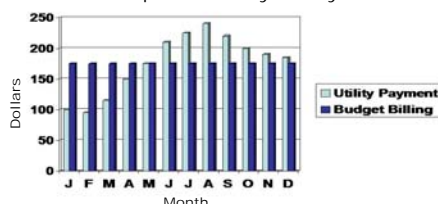
What is Budget Billing?



Do you ever feel like a "Price is Right" contestant each month when it's time to open your utility bill? One month it's low, next month it's high...you feel like you never know what to expect. In an effort to provide more consistency to customers who are tired of teetering from month to month, many utility companies, including Ft. Pierce Utilities Authority and Florida Power & Light, are offering a plan called "Budget Billing."

The basic concept behind the payment plan is to level out bills so that customers are paying roughly the same amount each month all year long. While it doesn't reduce your overall utility expense, it does allow you to spread out your annual expense over a full year. The plan takes your bills over a 12 month period and averages them together to come up with a consistent monthly payment. By enrolling in Budget Billing, you'll know how much you'll be spending every month regardless of how your utility use varies throughout the year. To find out more about Budget Billing, call your Utility Company.

Example of Yearly Utility Bills



Take a "Taste of St. Lucie"

Grab your fork and get ready to stuff yourself with some of our area's tastiest treats. The 8th Annual "Taste of St. Lucie" is right around the corner! The event, which will take place in Tradition Square on March 26th at 5:30p.m., will feature food from more than 60 local restaurants. A ticket gets you a taste of all the goodies you care to eat, and includes beer and wine tasting. Proceeds from the event benefit the local Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Club programs, two organizations which together serve over 4,700 children. Commissioner Smith is a proud member of the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters and encourages all to support this great cause. For more information on the event and how to get tickets, call Big Brothers Big Sisters at (772) 466-8535 or Boys and Girls Club at (772) 460-9918.

Sprucing up MLK/25th Street



If you travel MLK/25th Street between Orange Avenue and Avenue M, you may have noticed delays due to construction. The bad news is that you will continue seeing this for a while, the good news is that the project being completed is long overdue. The Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Ft. Pierce are working on a \$6 million improvement project in that area. The work will include resurfacing, widening, sidewalk and drainage improvements, signalization and center median landscaping. The project is scheduled to be complete by early summer 2009.

Wind Researcher



Florida Power & Light would like to bring a wind power project to St. Lucie County's coastline. In an effort to make a decision on whether or not wind is a good option for our area, last month Commissioner Smith visited the world's largest wind farm in Abilene, TX. He took the pictures to the left with his cell phone from high atop one of the turbines. The Commission is expected to vote on the issue in the coming months.



Meeting Schedules

County Commission:

6p - 1st/3rd Tues of every month
9a - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
Administration Bldg.
3rd Floor
2300 Virginia Ave
(Comcast Cable Channel 21)

Ft. Pierce City Commission:

7p - 1st/3rd Mon of every month
City Hall
100 North US 1
(Comcast Cable Channel 27)

School Board:

6p - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
School Board Office
4204 Okeechobee Rd.

Lincoln Park Business Assoc.:

7p - 2nd Wed of every month
Willie B. Ellis Police Substation
1220 Avenue D

Important Numbers

Commissioner Joe Smith

(772) 462-1410

carins@stlucieco.gov

Ft. Pierce City Hall

(772) 460-2200

Port St. Lucie City Hall

(772) 871-5225

SLC School Board Office

(772) 429-3600

State Representative

Richard Machek

(772) 595-1391

State Senator

Ken Pruitt

(772) 344-1140

Governor Charlie Crist

(850) 488-7146

US Representative

Alcee Hastings

(202) 225-1313

US Senator

Bill Nelson

(202) 224-5274

US Senator

Mel Martinez

(202) 224-3041

The White House

(202) 456-1414

Questions or comments about our newsletter?

Do you have an issue you'd like for us to discuss in the next newsletter?

Maybe an event you would like announced to the community?

Call or email Carin:

462-1410, carins@stlucieco.gov